

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper



Love Notes are on pages 8, 9 and 16

VOL. 87, No. 13

15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

FEBRUARY 15, 2024

News Review Ups Its Game To Greenbelters, with Love

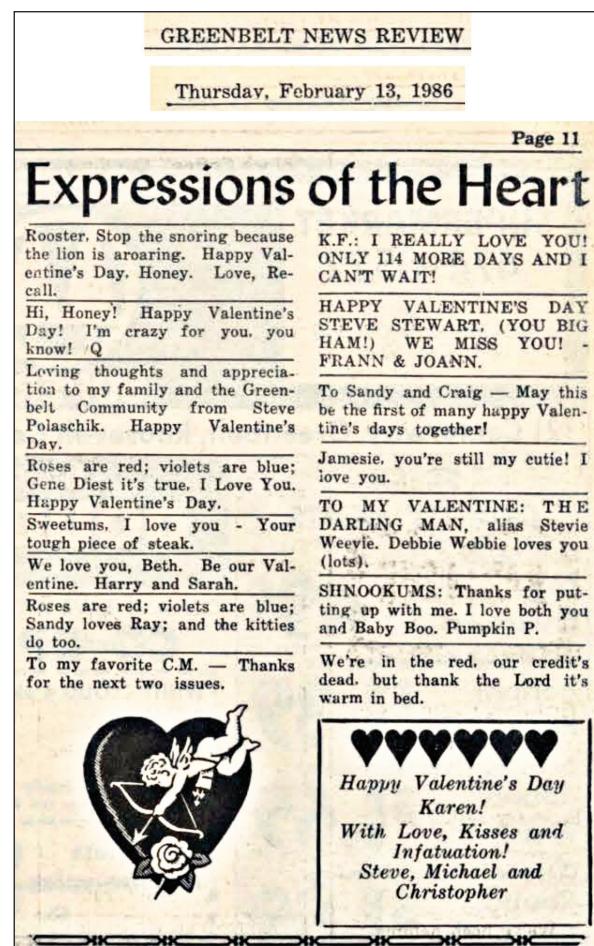
by Cathie Meetre

This week's issue of the News Review has two special things in store for its readers.

First, approximately 60 fond folks celebrated their love for family, friends and Greenbelt in rhyme and schmaltz in our Valentine's Love Notes (pages 8, 9 and 16). Tastefully decorated with hearts, flowers, cupids and so on by our artistic layout team of Anne Gardner and Christine Doran, Valentine's Coordinator Jan Wolf brings us a vibrant spread of sentiment, love and joy.

But There's More

We've taken the opportunity of the colorful Valentines to introduce our new paper stock. The News Review was the happy winner of a \$30K ARPA grant from the City of Greenbelt for business infrastructure initiatives. Approximately half that sum will be devoted to purchasing a



The first Valentines the News Review ran were in the February 13, 1986 issue.

better class of paper to print on for several months. The new stock provides more contrast, especially important for photographs and graphics (like advertising). It is also less porous – meaning that ink hitting the paper doesn't spread around so much but preserves the crisp edges of the original photograph and prints truer to the original colors. The rationale is that the more attractive presentation will increase readership and advertising.

Heightened Appeal

We're hoping, of course, to encourage more readers and more advertisers to pick up on what we offer and to increase the efficiency of the newspaper in helping residents with their daily lives in our community. We'd like more advertisers to know how effective

See VALENTINE, page 10

PGCPS Hot Mic on DKFI Move: "Doubling Down on a Bad Decision"

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Monday, February 12, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) leadership held a virtual town hall with the Dora Kennedy French Immersion (DKFI) school community, after the February 1 issue of the News Review broke the news of plans to move DKFI out of Greenbelt. During the webinar, PGCPS leadership gave a presentation about the planned move and read and answered questions they selected. Attendees found the most candid and interesting comments came

between the leaders when they thought the call had ended, including the suggestion that the move was a "bad decision."

Candid Comments

With the recording stopped but the webinar still in progress, leaders (not realizing the video was still live) said the meeting went as they'd anticipated with concerns from the community primarily focusing on transportation and access for students in the north of the county, in areas like Laurel. Director of Pupil

Accounting, School Boundaries and School Records Roger Prince stated that 40 percent of students would be closer following the move – a statement that indicates most students could find themselves with a longer commute. During the meeting it was stated that some would be closer and some would be farther but no figures were shared, despite the PTA's request for data on commute times and the impact of the location change.

See HOT MIC, page 12



IMAGE FROM ZOOM

PGCPS COO Charoscar Coleman was informed by phone that the webinar had not ended. Image from a video sent by a community member

What Goes On

Monday, February 19
Presidents' Day: City Offices Closed, No City Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 21
7:30 p.m., City Council Worksession: Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station (Stakeholder)

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltdmd.gov for more information.

ERHS Students again Participate In National History Day Contest

by Deanna Dawson

Students at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) participated in a National History Day competition for the first time in more than 10 years. The local event took place on January 31 after being postponed by snow from its originally scheduled date of January 17. Led by ninth-grade U.S. history teacher Victoria Patch-Williams and Judith Barrera, who teaches African American studies and government, students developed projects under the 2024 national contest theme, Turning Points in History. The National History Day contest was started in 1974 so this is its 50th year (see nhd.org for more information).

History Day Projects

Students choose a topic that fits into the national theme, conduct original research on the topic and create a project to present their findings in one of five formats: paper, performance, documentary, exhibit or website; each format has a set of rules,

which must be strictly adhered to. Papers must be prepared individually but students can prepare the other formats either individually or with one to four other students. All projects also require both a process paper that describes how the topic was chosen, how the topic relates to the annual theme, how the research was conducted and how the project was created, and an annotated

See HISTORY, page 12

Council Urged to Take a Step Back in Planning City Hall

by Diane Oberg

At its February 5 worksession, the Greenbelt City Council heard a presentation from architect David Whaples, based on work Isabelle Gournay and he did, urging council to take a broader view on replacing the Municipal Building. Gournay is an architect and a member of the Advisory Planning Board (APB). They first presented this concept to that body, which recommended that council consider her ideas. Gournay was not available for this worksession so Whaples gave the presentation, assisted by architect Kevin McPartland.

Later in the meeting, council heard an update from the firm conducting the feasibility study and developing cost estimates for a new municipal building on the site of the existing building. (See separate story page 6.)

Whaples stated that a city hall needs to be recognizable and needs to be in the center of town, ideally where people are going.

The architects call for "a holistic and mindful process to

select requirements and define the design of Greenbelt's city hall" that would honor the "planning principles that shaped our city and draw from the character of our original buildings while serving current requirements and anticipating future needs."

They say that selecting an inappropriate site could negatively impact the life of citizens for generations to come and that the city should consider all possible siting and design options. "The Greenest Building is the one that already exists," they state. In addition, special attention should be given to the planning and design of the council chamber.

The presentation, available in the agenda packet for this meeting, displays a variety of impressive city halls that the architects say were "located and designed to become enduring landmarks symbolizing civic pride." These ranged from a ca. 1600 town hall in Hesdin, France, with an

See COUNCIL, page 6

Letters to the Editor

Hugs

I have lived in Greenbelt my entire life. It is a fun place for kids to play. Trees make Greenbelt green. They help fight pollution, are great for climbing and even may hug. Wait, what am I talking about? For eight years I never saw trees hugging until my friend, Dr. Mira, showed me. If you walk across the Co-op parking lot toward the apartments, then about midway along the sidewalk looking up, you will see a pine tree and an oak tree hugging. Why not ask your crush (or family and friends) to visit Greenbelt's hugging trees and share a Valentine's Day hug or two?

Will Wertz (age 9)



Kids climb a tree at the "rocket-ship" playground near Greenbelt Elementary school.



Will Wertz hugs the "hugging trees" next to the Co-op parking lot.

- Photos by Beth Norden



See LETTERS, page 15

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Animated Oscar Shorts

Letter to a Pig, directed by Tal Kantor; Ninety-Five Senses, directed by Jared Hess; Our Uniform, directed by Yegane Moghadam; Pachyderme, directed by Stéphanie Clément; and War Is Over! Inspired by the Music of John & Yoko, directed by Dave Mullins

Live Action Oscar Shorts

The ABCs of Book Banning, directed by Trish Adlesic, Nazenat Habtezghi & Sheila Nevins; The Barber of Little Rock, directed by John Hoffman & Christine Turner; Island in Between, directed by S. Leo Chiang; The Last Repair Shop, directed by Kris Bowers & Ben Proudfoot; and Nai Nai & Wai Pó, directed by Sean Wang

Documentary Oscar Shorts

The After, directed by Misan Harriman; Invincible, directed by Vincent René-Lortie; Knight of Fortune, directed by Lasse Lyskjær Noer; Red, White and Blue, directed by Nazrin Choudhury; and The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar, directed by Wes Anderson

The Zone of Interest

The commandant of Auschwitz, Rudolf Höss, and his wife Hedwig strive to build a dream life for their family in a house and garden next to the camp. Said critic Tom Shone of the UK Sunday Times, "But if 'never again' really is the aim, Schindler's List tells us only half the story. The Zone of Interest teaches us an equally valuable lesson: how not to look the other way."

Ponyo

During a forbidden excursion to see the surface world, a goldfish princess encounters a human boy named Sosuke, who gives her the name Ponyo. Ponyo longs to become human, and as her friendship with Sosuke grows, she becomes more humanlike. Ponyo's father brings her back to their ocean kingdom, but so strong is Ponyo's wish to live on the surface that she breaks free, and in the process, spills a collection of magical elixirs that endanger Sosuke's village.



Greenbelt Cinema

129 Centerway

301-329-2034

www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:

Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions

CC = Closed Captions

DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
FEBRUARY 16th - 22nd

Animated Oscar Shorts

(2024) (80 mins)

Rating equivalent of PG-13/R
for adult themes

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Sat. 5:00 PM

Sun. 5:00 PM

Mon. 4:00 PM

Wed. 6:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Fri. 8:00 PM

Tues. 5:45 PM

Thurs. 8:15 PM

Live Action Oscar Shorts

(2024) (140 mins)

Rating equivalent of R for
adult themes

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Sat. 7:15 PM

Wed. 8:00 PM

Thurs. 8:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Fri. 5:00 PM

Sun. 2:15 PM

Mon. 5:00 PM

Tues. 7:45 PM

Documentary Oscar Shorts

(2024) (141 mins)

Rating equivalent of PG/
PG-13

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Fri. 7:45 PM

Sun. 2:00 PM

Tues. 8:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Sat. 7:45 PM

Mon. 2:00 PM

Wed. 5:15 PM

Thurs. 5:00 PM

The Zone of Interest (PG-13)

(CC) (DVS) (2023) (106 mins)

German w/ English subtitles

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Fri. 5:15 PM

Mon. 6:00 PM

Tues. 5:30 PM

Thurs. 5:30 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Sat. 5:15 PM

Sun. 5:15 PM

Wed. 8:15 PM

Ponyo (G) (CC) (DVS) (2008)

(100 mins)

Cinema Pop!

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Sat. 1:00 PM - Dubbed

Storytime on Screen - Free!

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Mon. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM

PETE REPPERT



Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

Community Events

At the Library

Regular hours for the Greenbelt Library are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays; noon to 8 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays; and 1 to 5 p.m., Sundays. Face masks are recommended for all customers over the age of 2 at Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) buildings.

The Library will open at 11 a.m. on Thursday, February 15, and will be closed on Sunday, February 18 and Monday, February 19 for the Presidents Day holiday. It will reopen on Tuesday, February 20.

Storytimes

Friday, February 16, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9968789.

Wednesday, February 21, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9685583.

Storytime on Screen

Monday, February 19, 10:30 a.m., ages 1 to 5 with caregivers, at the Greenbelt Cinema, in partnership with PGCMLS, offers a free program of stories, songs and a short film. It is not for unaccompanied children or adults. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9733618.

STEM-tastic

Tuesday, February 20, 4:30 p.m., ages 5 to 12 (elementary). Become a scientist by conducting hands-on, fun science activities using basic scientific principles. Learn to create amazing sculptures using a 3D printer pen, the 3Doodler. Acompáñenos a explorar la ciencia, la tecnología, la ingeniería y las matemáticas. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9796664.

Book Discussion

Tuesday, February 20, 6:30 p.m., 18 and older. Virtual Book Discussion. Black AF history: The Un-Whitewashed Story of America by columnist and political commentator Michael Harriot. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9815855. Pick up a copy at a branch library or request an ebook via the online catalog catalog.pgcmls.info.

Winter Reading Challenge

The Washington Wizards and PGCMLS have teamed up to get Prince Georgians of all ages reading this winter with the Wizards Winter Reading Challenge. The free event runs until March 31. To help promote youth literacy, the challenge provides participants with the ability to connect with their library while encouraging them to build a positive reading culture. For more information, visit pgcmls.info/wizards.



Dem Club Celebrates Black History Month

The Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club will hold a general membership meeting, open to all, on Friday, February 23 at 7 p.m., at the usual venue: Greenbriar Condominiums Terrace Room at 7600 Hanover Parkway.

In honor of Black History Month, the guest speaker will be Dr. Dennis Doster, Black History Program manager, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. In the course of almost 15 years in the field of public history he worked for the National Archives, Johns Hopkins University and the Alexandria Black History Museum.

Doster is an adjunct professor in African American Studies, history and women's studies at the University of Maryland, College Park and the University of Maryland Global Campus. He will talk about the Voting Rights Act and the effects of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Black history. A question-and-answer session will follow. The discussion will be followed by refreshments and socializing. Visit rooseveltclub.com to RSVP. For more information, email Jetguerrero@gmail.com.

MLK Day Service Project Rescheduled

Since Connecting Across Greenbelt couldn't work in the Schrom Hills Three Sisters Garden on MLK Day due to snow, the MLK Day Service Project was rescheduled for Sunday, February 25 from 3 to 5 p.m. Volunteers will help build raised beds to make gardening more accessible to seniors and others. Tools provided. Bring gloves if available.



Police Community Meeting

Join Greenbelt Police Department for a community meeting on Tuesday, February 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Community Center, on the second floor. Topics include crime trends and prevention, juvenile crime and upcoming events.

Buried Treasure Is Coming Up in March

Rehearsals for the 2024 Greenbelt Youth Musical are underway. Tickets are now on sale in the main office of the Community Center for performances on March 2, 3 and 9.



Greenbelt Access Television

Feb. 17, Sat - Feb. 23, Fri
Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)

Streaming on www.greenbeltaccesstv.org

THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station

Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)

The Jackie Robinson Story (1950)

"You'll hit with him! You'll run with him! You'll slide with him!" Jackie Robinson was the first Black major baseball league player of the 20th century. Join us for this excellent biographical film, following Jackie Robinson throughout his legendary career.

New This Month

Joint Exhibition Arts Reception

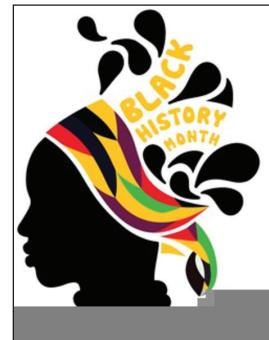
On February 4th, an Arts Reception was held at the New Deal Cafe, shining a spotlight on local Black artists including (but not limited to) Shaymar Higgs, Venus Stanton, and the Uhuru Quilters Guild. Check out the Joint Exhibition at the Greenbelt Community Center!

All this and more on the GATE channel this week! Check greenbeltaccesstv.org for the full broadcast schedule, and visit Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube for new video productions.

Black History Focus On Youth Health

On Sunday, February 18 at 2 p.m. at the Community Center, the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee will present a cultural program in honor of Black History Month, highlighting the city's youth.

Also present will be Prince George's County's Health Connect, with information about health insurance for ages 18 to 64, and Prince George's County's Office of Community Relations, with information about emergency services.



The SPACE: Free Art For All 2024 Programs

The SPACE: Free Art For All kicks off 2024 with an exciting lineup of fresh programs designed to inspire and engage.

Wednesdays: Beginners Music Classes in Ukelele and Keyboards, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: Capoeira (Brazilian Martial Arts), 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Fridays: Drum Circles with Rainbow Joe, 7 to 9 p.m.

Saturdays: Yoga with René Hood, 10 to 11:30 a.m.; Expressive Art Workshops, 2 to 4 p.m.

All classes are free and open to the public. The program extends a warm welcome for donations to support its community initiatives.

The SPACE is located upstairs in the former Big Lots space at Beltway Plaza, 6000 Greenbelt Road. Details on upcoming events can be seen on Instagram or Facebook @TheSPACEFreeArtForAll. For questions call 240-244-6115.

Nursery School Has Preschool Open House

Greenbelt Nursery School will hold its annual Open House on Saturday, February 24 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is the start of registration for the school year beginning September 2024.

Families seeking pre-school programs are invited to attend the Open House, meet the director, teachers and parents, view the classrooms and get information about classes.

Greenbelt Nursery School is a not-for-profit parent cooperative in its 80th year of operation. The school is certified by the Maryland State Department of Education. The school offers classes for children ages 2, 3 and 4. Full-day educational programs are available.

The school is located at 15 Crescent Road in the Community Center. Parking is available in the lot behind the Greenbelt Library. For more information, visit the school's website at greenbeltnurseryschool.org or call the school at 301-474-5570.



Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Note the updated start time. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, on Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.



This Week at the New Deal Café

SUPPORT Greenbelt's only venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

WINTER HOURS: Mon/Wed/Th 8am-9pm; Tues 8am-9:30pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – 10pm; Sunday 9am – 9pm, UNLESS NOTED.

TH 2/15	FRI 2/16	SAT 2/17	SUN 2/18
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm	Dirty Soul 7-10pm	POETRY OPEN MIC, 1-3pm	Fez Tones Hafla 6-8pm
Scotch and Soda 7-9pm	High energy sound of funk & R&B with a feel good vibe	49 Cent Dress Featuring Liz Springer! 7-10pm	An evening of Middle Eastern music with dancers!
Latin, jazz and swing with a deep groove		Rock & roll w/ the NDC's music coordinator!!!!	
MON 2/19	TUES 2/20	WED 2/21	TH 2/22
Reel and Meal: "Invented Before You Were Born" [Black History Month presentation] 7-9pm	NDC Open Mic w/ Joey Campfire 7-9:30pm	Pub Quiz 7-9pm	LUNCH W/ THE RELIC 1:30 - 2:30pm
	Sign-up begin at 6:30pm	Form a team and test your knowledge!	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm
			Cadillac Jump Blues Band 7-9pm
SPECIALS!			
			HAPPY HOUR 4-7pm
			\$1 OFF BEER AND WINE
			WEDNESDAY
			\$1 OFF PER GLASS
			\$5 OFF A BOTTLE

Join NDC! Go to www.newdealcafe.com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

THE NDC NEEDS YOUR VOLUNTEER TIME ON COMMITTEES. Contact: jbeltower@yahoo.com. We promise: It won't hurt!

Obituaries

Sharron Lee Beck



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Sharron Lee Beck

Sharron Lee Beck née Eldridge died on February 5, 2024, surrounded by love, with her devoted husband Darwin at her side. Shari was born on November 30, 1939, in Williston, N.D., to Parker and Bernadine Eldridge. The family moved to Wolf Point, Mont., in Shari's early childhood.

Shari attended Wolf Point High School, Macalester College in Minnesota and the University of Minnesota School of Nursing. She married Darwin Leroy Beck on August 26, 1962, and moved to Greenbelt, where Shari began her nursing career and Darwin attended graduate school. The growing family lived at 4-G Crescent Road, 3-D Ridge Road and then 4 Maplewood Court. Shari continued to work as a nurse and raise a young family until her fourth child was born. She then became a full-time mother and an avid volunteer at Holy Cross Lutheran Church and Greenbelt Center School's PTA.

In 1981, the family moved to Mahwah, N.J., for Darwin's job. Shari took on an assistant teaching role at Holy Cross Lutheran Nursery School, affirming her belief that 4-year-olds are the most fun age.

After retirement, Shari and Darwin embarked on several overseas assignments, in Poland,

Ukraine and Moldova. There Darwin worked as an economic advisor to these newly independent nations, and Shari learned to navigate in places where she did not know the language. She managed to communicate easily using her ready smile and ingenuity.

In between these overseas adventures, the couple spent a few years in Southboro, Mass., to be close to their grandchildren. In later years, they divided their time between a lakeside family home in Aitkin, Minn., and a winter get-away in Green Valley, Ariz. In 2022, they moved to La Posada Green Valley, where Shari enjoyed playing bridge and meeting new friends.

Shari's life was full of service and joy. She organized quilting for Lutheran World Relief in every place she lived. Together with Darwin, she welcomed relatives, friends and those with a need into her home for both long and short stays. Everywhere she went, she struck up easy conversations and friendships with whomever she met. It was not unusual for her to learn a new friend's whole life story in the first 10 minutes of acquaintance, inspiring confidences and giving support in all she did. She rarely went anywhere without making a new friend.

Shari is survived by her husband, Darwin; her four children Heidi, Heather Abushanab (Dan), Kelli O'Loughlin (BJ) and Parker (Lisa); her grandchildren Danielle Abushanab, Nadia Abushanab, Kate O'Loughlin, Sean O'Loughlin, Erin O'Loughlin,

Ethan Beck and Claire Beck; and her brother Van Eldridge (Cindy).

Shari was a wonderful wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, aunt, cousin, sister, sister-in-law and friend. She will be dearly missed by all who loved her.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Lutheran World Relief Quilt program lwr.org/quilts.

A memorial service will be held at Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior, 555 S. La Cañada Dr., Green Valley, AZ 85614 at 10 a.m. on March 9, 2024.

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

City Notes

Several departments offered presentations at the city's Winter Business Conference, which attracted over 120 attendees.

The City Manager met with Charlestowne North residents, visited Springhill Lake Recreation Center with Public Works and inspected CCI-Ora Glen Health Center's construction site.

Public Works tiled the Nursery School office and, with park rangers and 15 volunteers, removed six cubic yards of invasives at Buddy Attick Park for MLK Service Day.

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living program launched spring Community Nursing, providing in-home care for 32 residents by local nursing students.

After two adoptions, Animal Shelter staff and park rangers hosted six cats, five kittens, two dogs and a rabbit.

The Community Center accommodated a First Amendment Auditor training event for 95 city staff, a blood drive, Concert Band, Golden Age Club, Community Orchestra, Honk! Situation, Scouts, Public Safety Advisory Committee, Interfaith Leadership and 16 rentals.

Aquatic & Fitness Center staff briefly closed and repaired the hot tub.

Arts hosted a needlecraft workshop, and the Museum's Open House welcomed over 30 visitors.



Condolences to the family and friends of Sharron Lee Beck who died on February 5. She moved to Greenbelt in 1962 and lived with her family at three different homes here before moving to New Jersey in 1981.

Our deepest sympathy to News Review staff member, Linda Lucas, whose mother Patricia L. Virden died February 8 at Riderwood Village. Friends and neighbors from 14 Court Laurel Hill will remember her walking with her three-legged dog in a baby buggy.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



Tugwell Room Will Close Temporarily

The Tugwell Room at the Greenbelt Library will be temporarily closed as it is moved to the nearby, glass-enclosed room which previously held newspapers and magazines. The entire collection is being kept at the Greenbelt Library. For more on the collection, see pgcmls.info/tugwell-room.



Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc

301-474-9410

Pastor Evelyn Romero

Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Celebrate hope with us.



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT PAR-LITURGY
Zoom Only this WEEK
ALL ARE WELCOME!

For ZOOM link:
CCG1985+owner@groups.io

Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered Biblical & Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am
 Sunday School 9:15am
 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org



St. John's Episcopal Church
 11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
 301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for Worship & Sunday School at 10:00 AM

Greenbelt Community Church
 One Hillside Road

We are an Open and Affirming Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship and Church School

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

CELEBRATE WITH US
 135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

"If you desire with all your heart, friendship with every race on earth, your thought, spiritual and positive, will spread; it will become the desire of others, growing stronger and stronger, until it reaches the minds of all men."

– 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

The Bible Says...

Lent-Week #1
 Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance
 Matthew 3:8



Sunday Worship Services

10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School (66 Ridge Rd.)

MCFcc.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation


 10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
 Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

Saturday morning services at 10:00am

Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
 Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

February 18, 2024 at 3:00 pm

How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America

PBUUC Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) with Worship Associate Lula Beatty

What happens when we refuse to see the truth even when that truth is in plain sight? This Black History service, led by the DARTT Bookread group, explores how our willingness to open our minds and hearts to our painful common history can lead to racial healing and justice. It is based on the book How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America by Clint Smith.

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 pm: University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY 19 - 23

Monday, February 19, NO MEETING - PRESIDENTS DAY

Tuesday, February 20 at 7 pm, REPARATIONS COMMISSION, On the Agenda: Subcommittee Updates: Facilitation, Educational, Historical; Executive Committee Update, Open Comments

Wednesday, February 21 at 7:10 pm, ADVISORY BOARD INTERVIEW

Wednesday, February 21 at 7:30 pm, WORK SESSION - FRANKLIN PARK AT GREENBELT STATION (STAKEHOLDER)

Wednesday, February 21 at 7 pm, ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD, On the Agenda: Approval of January 17, 2024 Minutes, Prince George's County Memorial Library System Presentation: Greenbelt Branch Storywalk Proposal, Staff Updates

Wednesday, February 21 at 7 pm, PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD, On the Agenda: Council Liaison Update, Recreation Department Update, Administrative Report

Thursday, February 22 at 7 pm, FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD, On the Agenda: Sciene Fund - Interim Results Presentation, Question and Answer Period, Closing Round

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/Comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltdmd.gov/calendar.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 19, in observance of the Presidents Day holiday.

THE GREENBELT CONNECTION WILL NOT BE OPERATING.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Week of February 19
Monday Route – Collected Tuesday
Tuesday Route – Collected Wednesday
Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday
Thursday Route – Collected Friday

There will be no appliance, odd metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, February 23.

GREENBELT YOUTH MUSICAL BURIED TREASURE

3/2 at 7 pm, 3/3 at 3 pm, 3/9 at 2 pm & 7 pm

Be transported on a magical adventure by Buried Treasure, written and directed by Christopher Cherry.

Saturday, March 2, 7 pm, Sunday, March 3, 3 pm, Saturday March 9, 2 pm & 7 pm.

Greenbelt Community Center Gymnasium. All ages. \$5.

Purchase tickets at the Community Center Business Office or by phone at (301)-397-2208.

Details: <https://bit.ly/3u10tFq>.

EMERGENCY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION Open Registration

Please remember that you must register each month.

Parents must present proof of Greenbelt residency displaying parent's name and residential address, state-issued photo ID, each child's birth certificate.

To register: <https://forms.gle/z3d4HevujDMJGr6p8> or call (240) 424-0302.

QUARTERLY CITY CONNECTER

The City Connector has been a publication of the City of Greenbelt since 2008. City Departments are solicited for each issue in order to provide a well-rounded newsletter. Each newsletter includes information about City services, events, and other governmental services.

Check out the latest edition of the Greenbelt City Connector today! #StayConnected

Visit <https://ow.ly/h76W50QvXhw>.



CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge this fall: Emergency Diaper Program, Family and Unpaid Caregiver Resource Fair, Alzheimer's Awareness Month Webinar Series, Coffee & Conversations, two Free Produce Distribution events, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in Older Adults webinar, Staying Strong webinar, and more.

For descriptions and information, visit www.greenbeltdmd.gov/CARESprograms.

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Greenbelt Recreation and the Black History & Culture Committee invite you to celebrate Black History Month in Greenbelt. For more information on events in February, please visit www.greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation.



Greenbelt Black History & Culture Committee
blackhistoryandculturergb@gmail.com

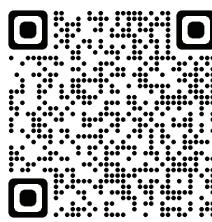


COMPOSTING PILOT PROGRAM

For 18 months, your food scraps can be collected for free to reduce food waste and return valuable compost to Greenbelt.

The Compost Crew will pick up your food scraps weekly and deliver them to their Compost Outpost at Trinity Church on Good Luck Road. Quality compost will be returned to Greenbelt for use as a soil amendment to improve Greenbelt gardens and public space lands. Composting will reduce food waste going to the landfill and lower greenhouse gas emissions coming from the landfill. Compost Crew, the City of Greenbelt, and Trinity Assembly of God worked together to obtain the funding for the pilot through a grant from the USDA.

- Open to all Greenbelt residents
- Join with close-by neighbors to help fill a 7 gallon tote for weekly pickup
- Purchase a collection tote for a one-time cost of \$20
- Residents who are seniors, have fixed or low income, or have a disability are encouraged to participate



Register with Compost Crew at <https://compostcrew.com/greenbelt/> or by using the QR code.

Questions? Email: irobles@greenbeltdmd.gov.



GREENBELT WAYFINDING SURVEY

The Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) is preparing a Greenbelt Strategic Wayfinding Plan for the City of Greenbelt funded by the Prince George's County Planning Department's Planning Assistance to Municipalities and Communities (PAMC) Program, and we are looking for input from the community. Community members are encouraged to take this brief survey, and to identify wayfinding signage gaps or needs in the City of Greenbelt on this interactive map.

Wayfinding can encompass various elements, including signage, maps, landmarks, and other cues that help individuals understand their location, the direction they need to go, and how to reach their intended destination. The Greenbelt Strategic Wayfinding Plan will facilitate pedestrian, automobile, bicycle, or transit travel to key sites by providing clear directions along safe and convenient routes.

If you have any questions regarding the survey or interactive map, please email Anusree.Nair@ppd.mnccpc.org.

Thank you for your participation!



FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

UPCOMING PRODUCE DISTRIBUTIONS

FEBRUARY 15, MARCH 21, & APRIL 18

TWO LOCATIONS

Community Center Ground Floor East: 1 pm, while supplies last. Open to all Greenbelt residents. **Must have a registration card** via Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltdmd.gov.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center: 3 - 4:15 pm, registration required. For Greenbelt West residents only. Register via email bgarcia@greenbeltdmd.gov.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

Volunteers are needed every third Thursday of the month at the Spring Hill Lake Recreation Center & the Greenbelt Community Center. Volunteers will assist with setting up tables, sorting and organizing fresh fruits and vegetables, and distributing them to families in need.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center Volunteers - For information, contact Katherine Farzin (240) 524-2019.

To register, please use the link: <https://forms.gle/AqNxCARjwioCnWf9>.

Greenbelt Community Center Volunteers - For more information, contact Flora Li (301) 412-2480.

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

at Doctors Community Medical Center, 8100 Good Luck Road

Luminis Health will be providing free blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol screenings on select Wednesdays in February and March. Screenings will take place on the 1st floor of the North Building at Doctors Community Medical Center.

Dates:

Wednesday, February 21, 10 am - 2 pm

Wednesday, March 6, 10 am - 2 pm

Wednesday, March 20, 10 am - 2 pm



HELP CREATE PUBLIC ART!

HELP CREATE PUBLIC ART! - FEBRUARY 17 & MARCH 2

Free workshops: 2/17 and 3/2. Ages 14 to adult. Details and registration (required) at <https://bit.ly/3T5nycR>.

GREENBELT ARPA GRANT PROGRAMS

Applications Deadlines Extended Through August 30, 2024

To better assist Greenbelt individuals, families, and businesses affected by COVID-19, Greenbelt's ARPA programs have extended deadlines through the end of the year for grants and other assistance.

Grants include:

Childcare Vouchers, Healthcare Vouchers, Higher Education Scholarships
First-Time Homebuyer Downpayment Assistance, Workforce Development
Micro Grants, Tree Canopy Grants

To view grant programs, or to see how other ARPA programs are helping your community recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, visit www.engagegreenbelt.org.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at greenbeltdmd.gov/calendar.



COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and make a difference in Greenbelt!

By dedicating your time and expertise, you will help shape the future of Greenbelt and create a community that values the voices of all its residents. Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

GREENBELT SAVE OUR SENIORS GRANT PROGRAM

Are you homebound and need help with personal care?

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program, in partnership with Pickett Fences Senior Services, has been awarded a grant to provide temporary home health support, bathroom safety assessment, and equipment to residents 60+ or 50+ with a disability, who reside within incorporated Greenbelt. During this time staff will work to identify and link residents with long-term support programs.

Benefits:

- RN Assessment
- Bathroom Safety Assessment and Equipment
- Home Health Visits

Limited spots are available!

Please email Trinity Cephas, GAIL Student Intern, for more information at tcephas@greenbeltdmd.gov or call the Bilingual Health Caseworker, Brendy Garcia, at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltdmd.gov.

BRING YOUR OWN BAG ORDINANCE

Effective January 1, 2024, the City of Greenbelt's Bring Your Own Bag bill aims to reduce single-use plastic bag waste and litter in our local waterways and tributary system.

The Bring Your Own Bag bill will prohibit a retail establishment from providing a plastic carryout bag to shoppers and can charge at least 10 cents for each paper bag provided to a customer at the point of sale.

Visit www.greenbeltdmd.gov/BYOBag.



Bring Your Own Bag

Effective January 1, 2024



PHOTO BY MICHAEL G. STEWART

Members of the St. Columba's Scottish Country Dance group take part in the annual Valentine's Day Dance in the Greenbelt Community Center on Sunday, February 11.

COUNCIL continued from page 1

emblematic clock tower/belfry that is now a World Heritage site, to the city hall in sister city Greenhills, Ohio.

The planning process, they say, should define space requirements, select the most suitable location from both a functional and symbolic standpoint and establish a workable timeline from planning to completion.

Unlike the city's request to its architects, Gournay and Whaples call for opening up the determination of what should be in a revised city hall and what could be located elsewhere. They separated the city's departments into what needs to be located in the city hall and what could be elsewhere. The uses they feel are integral to city hall include: public lobby, administrative offices, finance, human resources, council chamber, conference rooms, storage and workrooms, the public information office and an employee break room for a total of 10,562 total square feet required. In their estimation, the departments of Planning and Community Development, CARES, Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL), Information Technology and a multipurpose space could be located elsewhere. These uses would require 11,250 total square feet.

The first option outlined is to house the latter group of departments/offices in a renovated Municipal Building and build a new city hall for the first group of departments. Alternatively, a renovated Municipal Building could be used for other purposes such as a senior or visitors center, leased to a school or non-profit organizations or other ideas yet to be identified.

Or the essential operations could be located in the existing building "with a complete renovation and minor additions." The other functions could then be located in an addition to the Community Center or some less prominent location within the city.

Among the locations the architects felt the city should consider are: the fire station location on Crescent Road, the Greenbelt Armory site, the existing location and the north edge of Roosevelt Center.

After evaluating the pros and cons of each of these sites, the architects' preferred location for a new city hall is on the north edge of Roosevelt Center between the Granite Building and the Co-op. They say that "This location is the focal point of the planned city. The axis that was created to lead pedestrians here, starts at Ridge Road, travels under Crescent and currently terminates at the Mother and Child Statue."

The pros for this location include easy accessibility by car, walkable for Old Greenbelt residents, close to other city functions, potential contributions to the "commercial and cultural vitality of Roosevelt Center," and it would tie Roosevelt Center with the Aquatic & Fitness Center. They did not identify any cons to this site.

The architects also call for a substantial redesign of the council chamber into a state-of-the-art multi-use meeting room. The two examples of a "well-designed council chamber" they included in their presentation were one in Lynwood, Calif., with sloped stadium seating to accommodate 120 attendees and an overflow viewing area throughout the lobby and a 30,000-square-foot council chamber in Rhoon, the Netherlands.

In Report No. 2024-01, the APB recommended that the city "establish a public process to determine the scope and location of the potential municipal building, facilitate community input and incorporate the planning process to date."

Comments

Councilmember Rodney Roberts was not impressed with the recommended site. He called it their worst idea. He felt that it would block off the views from Roosevelt Center. Whaples countered that it would still be possible to see out from Roosevelt Center. The building, he said, would improve the backdrop to the statue and sound from concerts on the plaza would resonate off the building. It could also incentivize the city to clean up the area across from the building that has become the "back alley of Greenbelt."

Councilmember Jenni Pompi asked whether the pair had considered anything outside the core of the city. Whaples said they had not.

Resident Bob Rudd pointed out that council recently learned that the city is facing a projected deficit greater than it has ever had. That council is considering this project when property taxes are too high for homeowners, he said, is surprising and shocking.

Mayor Emmett Jordan replied that council is looking at the project now as they need to plan for the future. Currently, the city needs 7,500 to 10,000 square feet of additional space. The city needs to plan for 10 years from now. He said the project is not about this year or the city's financial condition even four years out. The city should consider how to retain our heritage and legacy and still function going forward, he said.

Firm Recommends New City Hall, Cost Could Top \$15M

by Diane Oberg

On Monday, February 5, the Greenbelt City Council heard two presentations on possible approaches to expanding or replacing the Municipal Building to provide sufficient space for city staff. Since the current Municipal Building was built, the city has added new departments, such as Planning and Community Development and Information Technology, as well as increasing staff in existing departments. The city itself has grown, adding most of Greenbelt East and Greenbelt Station, along with some smaller developments.

Even with moving some staff to other locations, the result has been offices accommodating more staff than they were designed for. In addition, organizations such as CARES are now so crammed in that it is difficult to offer confidential consultations to residents. As a result, council and city management decided that an expanded Municipal Building is needed and that all departments not having their own buildings should be housed in the new building.

To date, the city contracted with a firm to conduct a space study, which determined that an additional 10,000 square feet is needed, a near doubling of the 12,000 square feet in the existing Municipal Building. Then it contracted with Avanturs to conduct a feasibility study and develop a cost estimate to help council evaluate what is possible.

Recently, Advisory Planning Board (APB) member and architect Isabelle Gournay, along with architect David Whaples, gave a presentation to APB suggesting that the city should look at other options and locations. Whaples made the same proposal to council at this meeting. (See separate story, page 1.)

Feasibility Study

Avanturs Project Manager Wen Xiao and Lead Architect Wen Wang updated council on the feasibility study. Earlier in the process, the city had decided that the new building should be located where the existing building is.

Xiao described the findings of their engineering consultants at Delon Hampton and cost estimator MA Associates, LLC, who examined the two remaining options: to keep the newer, north wing of the building (where the council chambers are located) and build around it; or to raze the entire building and build anew.

Retaining the north wing poses a number of challenges, Xiao said. All of the walls are load-

bearing, limiting reconfiguration of the interior. It would be difficult to add another story, and the engineers had determined that significant reinforcing of the original structure would be needed. In addition, because the modified building would need to meet current codes, the existing mechanical, electrical, plumbing and sprinkler systems would have to be replaced.

Xiao said that the engineers recommend completely replacing the Municipal Building.

Concept Plans

Wang then described the vision the company has for the new building. If the Municipal Building is replaced, Wang said, it could be lowered slightly so that the ground floor is level with the civic green (the lawn of the community center). The current driveway and the area between it and the building could be paved in a different material, creating a civic plaza. Emergency vehicles would be able to drive through this plaza, as would those eligible for handicap-accessible parking. All other users would enter through the driveway off Centerway.

Wang suggested that if the redesigned building had a two-story atrium in the middle, pedestrians moving from Roosevelt Center toward the Library and Community Center could walk through the atrium, creating a safe and more traditional route for pedestrians to move from Roosevelt Center to the civic green, Library and Community Center, versus the current design where pedestrians must cross a variety of driveways and parking lots.

Costs

MA Associates estimated costs for both concepts based on market conditions in November 2023. Xiao, in presenting these costs,

noted that actual costs could vary based upon final design and the economy.

Option A, which retains the north wing has an estimated cost of \$11.1 million to \$13.9 million or \$506 to \$632 per square foot. The upper range reflects a 20-percent design contingency. They estimated the cost of Option B, a completely new building, as between \$12.5 million to \$15.7 million or \$570 to \$712 per square foot. The estimates, Xiao said, included demolition costs.

Discussion

Councilmember Rodney Roberts questioned whether all departments should be housed in one building, which could pose risks should something happen to that building. He also questioned where taxpayers were getting the money to build this "big beautiful new building." He said that the city should put some of these operations in the Greenbelt Armory building that the city expects to obtain at some point.

Mayor Emmett Jordan said that, in addition to what the architects had described, the city would want to look at geothermal heat, solar power and other things to make the building as environmentally friendly as possible. Assistant City Manager Timothy George, who is overseeing this project, noted that the city called for a green building and sustainability, which is very important to council, staff and residents. He noted that geothermal energy would be significantly more expensive but would cut down on long-term costs.

Councilmember Danielle McKinney asked if the staff is looking at "fitwel certification," which includes design strategies and policies to optimize health

See CITY HALL, page 10



Ms. Story's Living History

Starring: SHEMIKA RENÉE
Directed by: RIKKI HOWIE LACEWELL

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 301-441-8770

Greenbelt Dentist Stole Millions, Caused Pain, Suffering in Children

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On February 6, former dentist Seyed Hamid Tofigh, 57, of Potomac, who had practices in Greenbelt and Rockville, pleaded guilty to stealing more than \$8 million from Medicaid and practicing without a license. His patients were almost exclusively children. In Greenbelt, Tofigh owned Greenbelt Family Dentistry, also sometimes listed as Greenbelt Family Dental Group, located in Greenway Center.

Last week, in Prince George's County Circuit Court, Tofigh pleaded guilty to one count of Defrauding a State Health Plan (the Medicaid program) and one count of Practicing Dentistry Without a License. Tofigh practiced dentistry without a license on Maryland Medicaid (the joint federal-state program that provides healthcare benefits to low-income individuals) recipients, almost exclusively children, using the names, provider numbers and professional credentials of licensed dentists to submit claims, reported the Office of Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown.

Tofigh had been a licensed dentist in Maryland since September 1994 and owned several dental practices with two of his brothers. By 2015, the three brothers separated their ownership of the different dental practices, with Tofigh retaining ownership of Greenbelt Family Dentistry, located at 7500 Hanover Parkway, Suite 106, and Rockville Family Dentistry, located at 5806 Hubbard Drive in Rockville.

License Suspended Then Revoked

In March 2014, following several complaints from Tofigh's patients, the Maryland Board of Dental Examiners suspended his license to practice dentistry, finding there was "a substantial likelihood that he posed a risk of harm to public health, safety, and welfare."

In February 2015 the board revoked Tofigh's license, finding that he kept "consistently incompetent and egregiously deficient" dental records, and he provided incompetent and substandard treatment to patients, fraudulently billed for services never provided and engaged in unprofessional and dishonorable conduct.

Continuing to Practice

A dental practice must be owned by a licensed dentist, but from 2015 to January 2023, Tofigh continued to own his Greenbelt and Rockville practices and continued to practice dentistry on Maryland Medicaid recipients. An investigation found his continued practice of dentistry resulted in pain, suffering and infections in children with Maryland Medicaid health insurance. He also continued to bill for services he did not provide; continued to deliver substandard care to patients; used equipment that was not properly sanitized; performed and billed for unnecessary services, such as unnecessary root canals, fillings and tooth extractions; bullied and intimidated patients who questioned him; and kept very little documentation of services he claimed to have provided, said the Office of the Maryland Attorney General.



Tofigh continued to own and practice dentistry out of Greenbelt Family Dentistry until 2023, despite having his license revoked in 2015.

Aliases and Stolen Identities

Tofigh stole the identities of others, forged signatures on Medicaid applications, used aliases to avoid detection, directed his employees to use aliases to avoid accountability and failed to cooperate with insurance audits. When he wrote notes, he would sign them "Dr. T." so that it could have been any of the Tofigh dentists. From 2015 through 2022, Tofigh submitted claims for payment to Maryland Medicaid utilizing the name, Medicaid provider number and credentials of his twin brother, his younger brother and his nephew, all of whom are licensed dentists. Tofigh also used the credentials and Medicaid provider number of a former colleague to submit fraudulent claims to the Medicaid program.

Tofigh was paid \$416,850 for fraudulent claims filed under his twin's credentials, \$3,143,975 for fraudulent claims filed under his younger brother's credentials, \$4,751,127 for fraudulent claims filed under his nephew's credentials and \$218,950 for fraudulent

services filed in two months under a former colleague's credentials.

In total, Tofigh received \$8.5 million from Maryland Medicaid for services that were fraudulently billed under the names of the four other providers.

"This case revealed a complex healthcare fraud scheme that not only drained taxpayer dollars away from our state's Medicaid program, but also placed Dr. Tofigh's young patients in real danger," said Attorney General Brown. "By stopping Dr. Tofigh, my office continues in its commitment to protecting patients and ensuring the integrity of state programs remains intact."

Sentencing

For the Medicaid fraud, Judge Carol Corderre sentenced Tofigh to five years in jail, suspending all but 78 days, with 18 months' home detention and five years' probation. Thus, Tofigh's jail time will be approximately two-and-a-half-months, followed by home detention.

See DENTIST, page 10

PLAY BALL!

Registration is open for the 2024 Spring Season for Greenbelt Youth Baseball Little League

<http://www.gybllittleleague.org>



Divisions available for players ages 4-14
Evaluations and team selections start in March
Season runs from April to June
Coaches and volunteers welcome!

Questions? E-mail us at greenbeltyouthbaseball@gmail.com

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Dr. Jay McCarl, Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, and Dr. Richard Duarte are licensed general dentists.

Reel and Meal Film Unveils Little-Known Event in Black History

by Donna Hoffmeister



SCREENSHOT FROM MOVIE

Major Richard Bibb is the first focus of the Reel and Meal film.

The New Deal Café will host a screening of the film Invented Before You Were Born on Monday, February 19 at 7 p.m. as part of Greenbelt's Black History Month celebrations.

The documentary delves into a significant event in 1839, nearly two centuries ago and well before the Civil War, when the will of Major Richard Bibb, a Revolutionary War officer, emancipated 65 enslaved individuals in Russellville, Ky. They were granted land, tools, homes and financial resources, empowering them to forge new lives as free Blacks in America.

Some of the Bibb freedmen chose to sell their inherited property and relocate, while others established three small communities in western Kentucky that flourished.

The documentary also explores the life and motivations of Bibb himself. His descendants include influential figures like U.S. Senator George M. Bibb, who supported slavery, and John Bigger Bibb, who popularized Bibb lettuce. Richard Bibb's involvement in the American Colonization

Society, which advocated for the repatriation of Black people to Africa, raises questions about his convictions. In 1832 he sent 31 of his enslaved people to Liberia, none of whom survived the journey. Preferential treatment was given to Catherine Bibb, known as Granny Kate, who inherited by far the most land, 250 acres. According to family oral history she was Bibb's daughter. Even though Richard Bibb felt slavery was wrong, he fathered children with enslaved women.

The latter part of the film shifts focus to the modern-day descendants of the freedmen, particularly Michael Morrow, a local historian and descendant of Richard Bibb. By transforming Bibb's former residence into a historical museum, called SEEK (Struggles for Emancipation and Equality in Kentucky), Morrow seeks to preserve the memory of the freedmen and their struggles. He also aims to preserve the neighborhood he grew up in as one of the oldest and longest lasting rural Black neighborhoods in the South. He provides mentorship

See FILM, page 10



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Kim Kash of Compass
Washingtonian's Face of Prince George's County Real Estate



COMPASS

LOVE NOTES



If I were a bunny I'd hops
If I were a poptart, I'd pops
As I am neither, I'll bring
you Godiva
And tell you, dear Rick,
you're the tops.

Dear Madiya,
Ay ga ni ba gumo
gumo.
Iri ma koy cere banda.
Love, Ibrahim

Greenbelt Magic is
amazing
If you live here you
will know.
How it got here I
don't know.

Helloooo
Mr JPR
A star you are!
Heart to heart
Everything is OK
When I'm with you

You show us the universe in a whole new
way. We love you, James Webb
Space Telescope!

To my lifelong love
from her Valentine!

Mommy: You're our slobbery tennis ball,
our walk without head prison, our slushy
off-brand kong, & our cozy Costco bed.
We jump with joy when you're near.
Love, Watson & family

Michael,
I love traveling with you
(And also just staying home)
Thanks for sharing the trip of life
with me!
Love, Julie

To HHS,
You hold me when I am sad.
You listen to me when I am mad.
We are happy when I am glad
My love for you is not a passing fad.
From NBS

To My Winter Garden:
A most luscious color blooming
Surrounded by a quilt of snow;
Its rich pink with dark red center
Reminds me Spring is looming.



Teresa:
Entering our 18th, the love
grows bigger and better.
I love you to the moon and
back. David

I ❤️ GNR Editors
Because they are those
Who know how to spell
(or misspell) lachrymose



I love my family all to pieces. In order of appearance (more or less): Rick, Jeff, Lisa, Sarah, Jenny, Joe, Pete, Hunter, Toby, Vasili, Jake, Ricky, Jenna, Savannah, Michael, Darien, Jeff, Lindsay, Margaret, Catherine, Liz, Griffin, Josie, Summer, Carly, Jasper, TJ. Wow, guys ...
Love to all from The Matriarch.

All my love to the most amazing people in my life
- Bobo and Lizardbelle!
I'll never know how I got so lucky.
Thank you thank you thank you!



Dad Bod Squad: Here's to another year
of burpee recoveries, laps around the lake,
dizzying burnouts, & overwhelming joy. <3



Let's love one another and SING!
Greenbelt! Singing together coming
soon. Stay tuned (yes, I said that)!

MSF
Why are you talking to me like we've
been married THIRTY years?!
TLP



I LOVE YOU! Feets



P-Pie, how many years now? 43?
What a streak, and it's been terrific!
Let's keep going for 43 more!
B-Bob

Petite-fille, tu es belle, tu es spéciale,
tu es unique, tu es aimée, tu es un tel cadeau
pour tous ceux qui te connaissent et pour tous
ceux qui t'aiment. Nous vous souhaite une
Saint-Valentin aussi merveilleuse que vous.
Joyeuse Saint Valentin EFO.
De grand-père et grand-mère.



Matthew Inzeo: I'm disappointed
you weren't selected for the City
Council. Hold your head high and
feel our love.



DUDE --
YOU STOLE MY HEART
I STOLE YOUR BLANKET
HAPPY 40TH ANNIVERSARY
LOVE DONNA

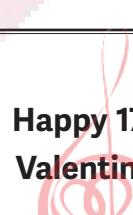


CO-OPS ARE GREAT
DESIGNED WITH MUCH CARE
LET'S MAKE SURE THEY REMAIN
FOR GENERATIONS TO SHARE!



To JD from AD:
Whether market bear or bull,
Whether prose or whether verse,
Whether White House red or
blue,
I'll play our bad cop or worse.

Happy 17th birthday Olivia! You are our favorite
Valentine's Day present. Love, Mommy, Daddy,
Alexandra, Vivian, and Nadia.



We promised each other 30 years. We've met our goal, plus some. Happy Valentine's Day. Happy Anniversary.
I love you. S



Museums to thrift stores,
DC to MD,
soup cobbler to Lego
Fortnite,
loved every minute :)
thanks for hanging around!

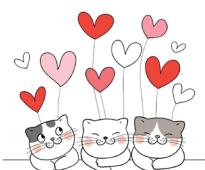
In printed form I must confide
In GNR my words reside
My love for you, in attempted rhyme
Scanning, though, no forte of mine

From Puerto Rico to the land down under,
I feel your love and joyous wonder
And though we cannot now embrace
Through call or Zoom we may touch base

Forever Near,
Your Adoring Besheret

Meow. Meow. Purr. Purr. Purr.
Translation: Happy Valentine's Day to the wonderful team at A Cat's Life Rescue and all the adoptable kitties waiting for their forever homes!

Love, Biscuits
(and her human friends, Jenny and Alden)



Janet Zevallos
You were Accepting, Unique,
Artistic and Loving
The Girl Next Door, Prettiest,
Coolest Girl I Ever Met
A Heart for the Young and
Innocent
And The Best Valentine
A Man Could Ever Be Blessed With
Miss You and Love You
Keith

Kassandra, I love you more and more each day and am so proud to be your husband. Love always,
Matt

Oompa Loompa doompadee do
I have a Valentine rhyme for you
Oompa Loompa doompado dee
If you are wise you'll listen to me

Barely 8 months and almost walking
We are scrambling and babyproofing
Riding her mint green bike – so cool!
Both blowing bubbles at the pool

Bloop bloop bloop bloop bloop bloop

Oompa Loompa doompadee dee
You make mom and dad so happy
Oompa Loompa doompado dove
Ilan and Shaya it's you we love



Joe, we've been together, and we've been apart but regardless if you're next to me – I carry you around in my heart. For this entire lifetime and the next ...
I will love you – Melissa



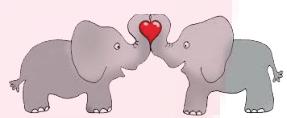
To my Sweet T,
Thank you for being the kindest, strongest and most incredible woman I have ever met.
I'm lucky as heck to have you in my life.
P.S. Your haircut looks amazing.
Love,
Jules



Happy Valentine's Day,
Morgan. We love you so
much. Hugs & smooches,
Mom & Dad

Continued
on page 16

Hey Daddy;
You are great and an awesome dad.
I love you!
Your daughter,
Maggie



Kelly,
Happy Valentine's Day! Your love brings light to our world, making each moment more beautiful. Thank you for being the heartbeat of our family.
You mean everything to us!
All our love,
Finn, Camden, and Chris

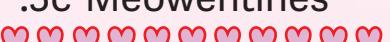


Bamberg or Greenbelt -
always special.
Happy you are here this
week!

Ed loves Abby



:3c Meowentines



To Charlotte, Maggie,
Thessaly, Moby, Dot,
and Magic -- I love all
of you so much.
Karen

If your heart is feeling blue
This Valentine's wish is just
for you
Whether lonely, sad, or broken
Wishing you an extra dose of
care
Tender love nice and bare
To nourish your special heart
with extra flair
Katrina B.

J - IT HAS BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE WE RE-UNITED WITH ONE ANOTHER AND FIVE SHORT MONTHS SINCE WE MARRIED. I WANT TO TELL YOU I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER BEING WITH YOU. I GROW MORE IN LOVE WITH YOU EVERY DAY. SO, HAPPY ANNIVERSARY AND HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!

LOVE – M



Dov: I love you, and am so grateful we found each other. This life we've built together is better than what I could have ever dreamed of.
Forever yours, Stega



To neighbors at 17, 19, and 21 Ridge:
Happy Valentine's from Gina, Joe, and Noelle



Sweetpea,
It's been 20 years of great adventures together. Looking forward to even more grand adventures to come
Your nb
Co-signed, Pretty, Ms. Moxie and Gustopher

LO
VE

DENTIST continued from page 7

Corderre also ordered Tofigh to pay \$8.5 million in restitution within one year. At the time of sentencing, Tofigh had made one \$4.5 million payment toward restitution.

Lastly, Tofigh is prohibited from providing healthcare services that are either partially or wholly funded by state or federal governments and must permanently surrender his Maryland dental license.

Greenbelt Family Dental Group

Yelp reviews for the Greenbelt practice produce an overall one-star rating (reviewers are required to leave a minimum of one-star). Patients there complain of being billed for procedures they didn't receive, not receiving items they paid for and describe their expe-



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLON

riences at the dental practice as "inhumane," "absolutely horrific," and "one of the worst experiences I may have ever had at a dental office." Some reported leaving the office with a bleeding mouth. "I would be concerned for anyone who visits this establishment," said one. "Absolutely the worst dentist I have been to in my entire life," said another. A mother reported the staff told her Maryland law said she couldn't be in the room while her 6-year-old was treated. Another reviewer reported ending up in hospital with an infection.

Calls to the practice from the News Review went unanswered and were routed to a full voice-mail box.

CITY HALL continued from page 6

and wellness among occupants, in addition to energy efficiency. This measure evaluates how healthy a building is and how well it works for people with disabilities, she said.

Xiao estimated that a new building could be completed within two years from the start of design. Wang suggested that

with a public building and the need for community input, three years would be a better estimate.

A final decision on how to proceed is unlikely to come soon. As City Manager Josué Salmerón noted, the city must also consider the impact of issues such as the new FBI building, the armory and the fire station.

FILM continued from page 7

and guidance to at-risk youth, some descended from the African Americans that Bibb freed.

The documentary also follows the journey of White filmmaker Jonathan Knight and his sister Rachel as they confront their family history. A poignant family reunion in Kentucky brings together descendants of both the enslaver and the enslaved, prompting candid discussions about race, slavery and privilege. Some White descendants of Major Bibb acknowledge the role of their ancestors in perpetuating racial inequalities. By presenting diverse perspectives and engaging with uncomfortable truths, the film *Invented Before You Were Born* encourages viewers to confront the complexities of the past with honesty and empathy.

The film is free and live at 7 p.m. on Monday, February 19 at the New Deal Café and also on Zoom. Online registration is required for "virtual" participants at tinyurl.com/ReelnMealFeb2024. The Café offers a full menu, including several vegan options, for the live screening. There will be a drawing for a voucher to cover in-person meal expenses.

Reel and Meal at the New Deal is a monthly film series focused on environmental, social

justice and animal rights issues, presented by the Utopia Film Festival and the Prince George's County Peace & Justice Coalition. This month's film is sponsored by the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee. For more information contact donna.hoffmeister@verizon.net.



riences at the dental practice as "inhumane," "absolutely horrific," and "one of the worst experiences I may have ever had at a dental office." Some reported leaving the office with a bleeding mouth. "I would be concerned for anyone who visits this establishment," said one. "Absolutely the worst dentist I have been to in my entire life," said another. A mother reported the staff told her Maryland law said she couldn't be in the room while her 6-year-old was treated. Another reviewer reported ending up in hospital with an infection.

Calls to the practice from the News Review went unanswered and were routed to a full voice-mail box.

Help Feed Those in Need

Greenbelt PORCH collects donations of nonperishables and hygiene products and brings them to the St. Hugh's Food Pantry. Donations must be placed by front doors in containers marked RUAK or PORCH visible from the street. The pantry cannot accept food that has expired.

The February schedule is below:

Saturday, February 17 – by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road

Sunday, February 18 – by 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village

Sunday, February 25 – by 4 p.m. for 9 and 12 Courts Ridge Road, 11 and 13 Courts Ridge Road and Boxwood Village; by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

If not part of a regular pickup route, email Robert Goldberg-Strassler by noon on Sunday, February 18 at spreadruak@gmail.com. He will come to any individual porch and pick up donations.

Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer or starting a new neighborhood for monthly food collection with Greenbelt PORCH, email Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

VALENTINE continued from page 1

advertising in our special little newspaper is.

Website Upgrade

The remainder of the grant is to be devoted to an update to our website, which has been relatively unchanged for several years. It will still be a relatively simple offering (we are, after all, a mostly print newspaper) but, in addition to making it easier to maintain, we expect to add the ability to size, price, submit and pay for classified and display ads online.

We hope our readers find both these initiatives to their taste and we remind all who read it that a local newspaper is an increasingly rare and precious resource already lost to many communities. We encourage you to join us in helping to produce each week's beautiful issue, filled with news of our beautiful city.

To find out more about volunteer opportunities, email Editor@GreenbeltNewsReview.com.

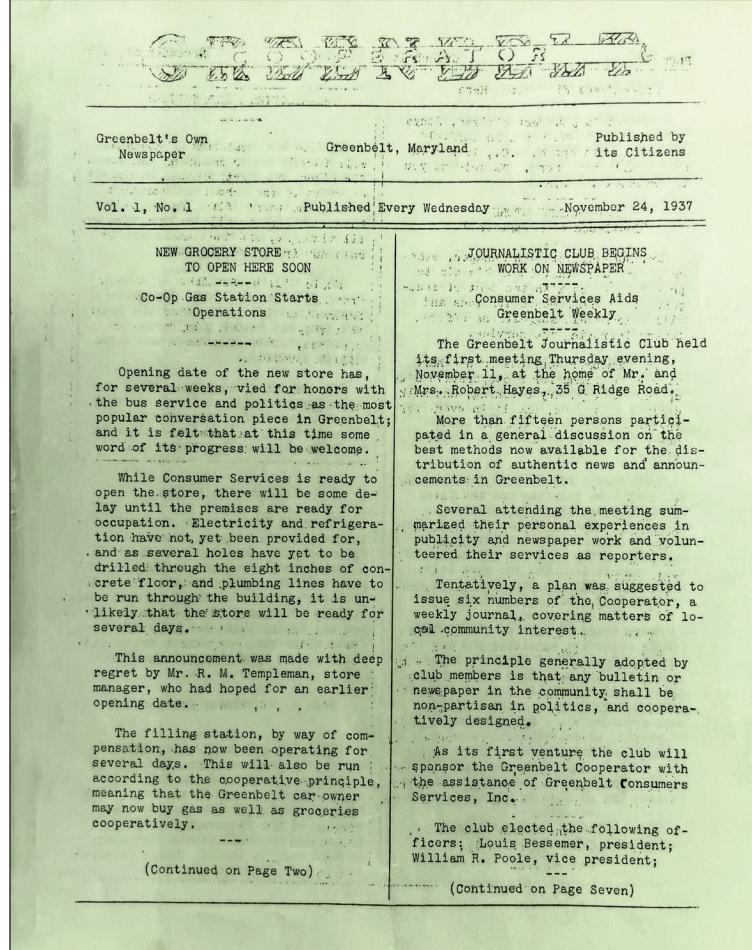


PHOTO BY JEFFREY ALLEN JONES

The very first issue of the News Review appeared in November 1937 on paper with a green hue.



FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

Something for Everyone!

121 Centerway, Greenbelt • www.greenbelt.coop

Co-op Is Proud to Support
These Great Black-Owned Businesses



local
Dodah's Kitchen
Cakes



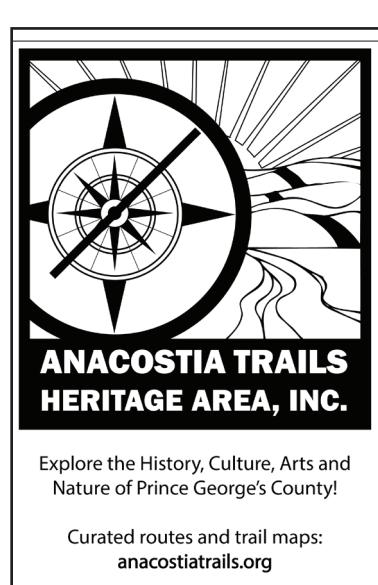
Simple Pleasures
Ice Cream



Alaffia
Wellness



local
Maison Noir Wine &
Black Viking Brew



Street Takeover by Cars, Crowd At Hanover Pkwy. Intersection

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



PHOTO BY CHAUNSEY SEELO LOGAN

Cars and people take over the street at Hanover and Greenway Center Drive in the early hours of Sunday, February 11.

At approximately 1:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 11, more than 100 cars and dozens of spectators filled the intersection of Hanover Parkway and Greenway Center Drive. In what is sometimes called a "sideshow," vehicles performed "donuts" while people stood along the roadway and in the center of the intersection, cheering and filming the autos on cell phones, despite their proximity to the reckless driving. While street racing involves cars speeding along a stretch of road, street takeovers are events in which drivers and crowds shut down intersections to show off their high-speed maneuvers and stunts such as donuts, burnouts and drifting. On Sunday, officers from Riverdale Park Police, Mount Rainier Police, U.S. Park Police, Prince George's County Police and Maryland State Police all responded to assist Greenbelt Police in controlling the crowd and breaking up the meeting. Fireworks were thrown at officers' vehicles as they attempted to disperse the gathering.

There were no arrests made by Greenbelt Police. The incident is treated as a dispersal because there were no injuries, accidents or arrests. If another agency is investigating the incidents on Saturday night and Sunday morning, red light cameras may provide law enforcement with further information, though the vehicles or tags involved could be stolen.

The group began its series of street takeovers that night outside of Greenbelt, convening in Charles County. They were repeatedly dispersed and pushed

Citizens Police Academy Applications Due Feb. 22

The Greenbelt Citizens Police Academy (GCPA) 10-week program will be held on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m., starting on March 7. This free program aims to foster communication and understanding between the community and the police. It's an excellent opportunity for anyone living, working or attending school in Greenbelt to learn more about how the police department operates, says the Greenbelt Police Department. The GCPA program offers a combination of classroom and hands-on instruction on various police functions.

To obtain an application, contact Rico Dennis at rdennis@greenbeltdmd.gov. Applications must be submitted by Thursday, February 22.

Youth Shoots a BB Gun At Middle School Students

On Friday, February 9, three Toyota four-door cars, one white, one black and one red, followed two students walking to Greenbelt Middle School. A juvenile in one of the cars shot at the students with a BB gun. Fortunately, the students were not injured. Police responded and escorted the students to school and informed the school and the students' parents of the incident. Greenbelt Police also increased their patrol of the area and are

looking for any available footage. Police are not providing a precise location of the incident to prevent the juveniles from being identified or targeted further. Anyone with information is asked to call 301-474-7200.

Critical Missing Business
YOURS!
Be Found for
\$21.20 and up.
www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com



Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred February 5-11, 2024. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltdmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Theft
Greenbelt Police Department had one death report, four domestics with three arrests, plus a family dispute and one mental health diversion for a suicide attempt. There were three reports of missing persons: one was resolved, and two were juveniles whose families have ideas about where they are. A very young child was found unattended and returned safely to the parents.

Robbery

On February 5 at 2:33 a.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a woman was using her iPhone when a man took the phone from her hand. He told her to get on the ground and looked at her phone. He then said "she doesn't work at Safeway," threw the phone on the ground and fled. No one was injured.

On February 7 at 4:49 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a juvenile was approached by two other juveniles who displayed a gun and robbed him. He was familiar with them from school. Police found and arrested them.

On February 11 at 8:58 p.m. near 6100 Springhill Terrace, as a man was walking, he was approached by a man with a handgun who took his phone and shoes. The suspect said he intended to transfer funds from the victim's bank account. Someone was walking nearby and the suspect handed the cellphone back to the victim and fled on foot. The victim also recovered his shoes.

Burglary

On February 11 at 3:34 a.m. near 7589 Greenbelt Road, officers responded to a burglary in progress at the SNIPES. The front and rear doors were open, and suspects fled with a bag of sneakers when officers arrived. A large box of merchandise and burglary tools were left behind.

Assault

On February 5 at 3:29 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, two men had been putting merchandise into shopping carts, and one of the men spat on an employee watching them.

DUI Arrest

On February 11 at 9:00 p.m. near Greenbelt Road and Keenlywood Avenue, a woman sleeping in her car was arrested and charged with driving under the influence.

Theft
On February 5 near 6225 Springhill Court, Amazon reported that a package was delivered but it was never found. On February 5 near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a man who left the store with unpurchased items was arrested on an open warrant through the Prince George's County Sheriff's Department; he was issued a criminal citation for theft and transported to the Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections. On February 8 near 5500 Cherrywood Lane, an audit revealed theft from a business. On February 9, near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two men stole two expensive vacuums; a man wearing a tan hoodie stole a Segway electric scooter; and near 7607 Greenbelt Road, someone stole several items. On February 11 near 7583 Greenway Center Drive, five suspects stole multiple items.

Fraud

On February 9 near 9100 Springhill Lane, a man was swindled into buying a vehicle. He deposited money through the Bitcoin ATM, and was asked for more money for shipping; he refused and asked for his money back, and they stopped responding.

On February 5 near 432 Ridge Road, someone used a credit card multiple times without authorization. On February 10 near 7801 Hanover Parkway, a credit card account was opened without authorization.

Prostitution

On February 11 at 4:19 a.m. near 6400 Ivy Lane, a man reported prostitution at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Six vehicles were stolen: February 5 near 6510 Lake Park Drive, a 2012 Chrysler 300 (D.C. FZ6549); near 124 Westway, a 2022 Kia Sportage (Md. 8GA5652); near 16 Ridge Road, a white Hyundai Elantra (Md. 1EC3298); near 8003 Lakecrest Drive, a 2020 Hyundai Elantra (Md. 8MP5217). On February 7 near 7800 Hanover Parkway, a silver 2006 Infiniti EX35 (Va. TMB3972); and on February 8 near 9100 Edmonston Court, a maroon 2015 Hyundai Sonata (Md. 3EY3789).

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On February 5 near 6400 Ivy Lane, a 2020 Hyundai Elantra was stolen; it was recovered by Prince George's County Police Department, and the two subjects involved were arrested after they were chased and crashed the vehicle.

On February 11 near 6025 Springhill Drive, a 2013 Hyundai Elantra stolen in Prince George's County was located and impounded.

Theft from Auto

Airbags were stolen on February 7: from a 2015 Honda CRV near 7900 Winterwood Place; a 2017 Honda Pilot near 7200 Sunset Place; a 2017 Pilot 7601 near Greenbrook Drive; a 2014 Toyota Corolla near Frankfort Drive and Jacobs Drive; and a vehicle near 6100 Breezewood Drive. Near 8005 Lakecrest Drive, a catalytic converter was stolen. On February 10 near 7702 Hanover Parkway, another Honda Pilot had the airbag stolen.

Windows were broken and items stolen on February 8 near 9100 Springhill Lane; and near 6200 Springhill Court, two phone chargers; on February 9 near 9300 Edmonston Road, a purse; and near 9240 Springhill Lane, several items. Windows were broken on a vehicle February 8 near 6404 Ivy Lane, a Kia Forte rental on February 9 near 9100 Springhill Lane, a 2010 Camry on February 9 near 5800 Cherrywood Lane and a Dodge Charger on February 10 near 7500 Mandan Road.

Vandalism to Auto

On February 7 near 1 Plateau Place, a vehicle had multiple deep scratches on the hood and roof. On February 9 near 9005 Breezewood Terrace, a 2012 Hyundai Elantra and a 2015 Chevy Malibu had windows smashed. A passerby stated the suspect was a woman wearing a black hoodie and gray leggings.

Crisis Hotline's Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

Open HOUSE

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1PM TO 3PM

2 bed/1 bath GHI Co-Op
New stove, refrigerator, and stackable washer/dryer.
Hardwood floors.
New tile floors in kitchen & bath.
Incl. ductless mini-split.
Walking distance to Roosevelt Center and public transit.
List Price: \$190,000

MELANIE CANTWELL
Long and Foster Real Estate

School News

HOT MIC continued from page 1

PGCPS Chief Operating Officer Charoscar Coleman said, "You know what bothers me? ... I feel like we're doubling down on a bad decision. It is our decision, but if there was space at Goddard and this was an opportunity to put them back at Goddard, why aren't they back at Goddard? Why aren't we moving them back to Goddard?"

"Because they hate each other!" exclaimed Director of Capital Programs Shawn Matlock. "They fought each other," he said, apparently referring to the Robert Goddard Montessori and DKFI schools.

"That's not a reason," argued Coleman. "All this data. They hate going to Kenmoor. They hate going to Landover. They don't want to do anything except stay in that building until they can get a new one right there in Old Greenbelt ... This is why we end up twisted up into the facts apply sometimes and sometimes they don't."

Coleman was about to reiterate something Matlock had said but was interrupted by Marissa Thomas, Administrative Secretary to Jason Washington, who asked them to "pause for just a moment with our speaking" as Coleman was informed by phone that they were still in a live meeting.

Though Coleman was caught in a "hot mic" moment, many parents from the DKFI community appreciated his request for a fact-and-data-based decision for the future of the school.

Webinar

DKFI's PTA had requested an in-person town hall meeting with PGCPS leaders and were frustrated with the option of a webinar, in which participants were not able to speak, see each other or see questions asked by others in the chat unless presenters answered or acknowledged a question.

Rationale for Kenmoor Move

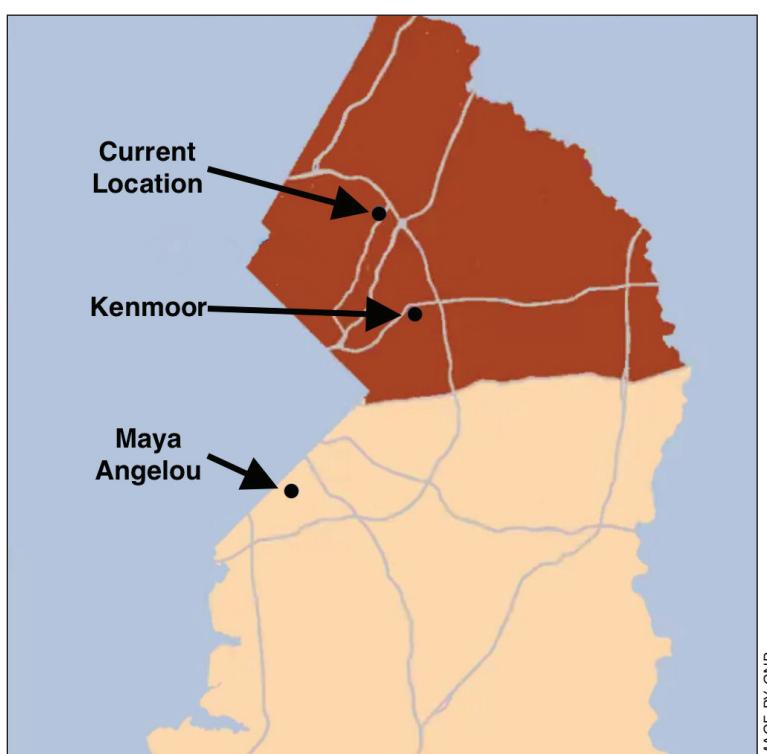
During the presentation, Matlock suggested the move from Greenbelt to Kenmoor would be beneficial to DKFI because they would be transferring from a school built in 1937 to one built in 1973. The Kenmoor building is about 12 Facilities Condition Index (FCI) points better than their current building, he said, with a safer parking lot, a playground that's been put in place for the elementary school that is currently using it as a swing space, and bathrooms adapted to work for elementary school children. There's also been work on the steampipe and a boiler replacement is scheduled.

They responded to a question about potable water, something DKFI has struggled with in their current location, stating that Kenmoor does not have potable water. This is true of most PGCPS buildings constructed before 2000, they said.

No New Building

DKFI parents and the PTA posed questions about why they have never been in line for a new building, despite being in one of the oldest in the county. During the webinar, they were told that DKFI was considered a program rather than a school.

"This school isn't just a program. It's part of our commu-



This map shows the current location of Dora Kennedy French Immersion in Greenbelt, the proposed location at Kenmoor and the location of the second French immersion school, Maya Angelou. The two schools have different catchment areas, with DKFI serving the north of the county (shaded brown) and Maya Angelou serving the south. The dividing line is Central Avenue. Image compiled from those of PGCPS Pupil Accounting and School Boundaries.

nity," wrote René Richardson in the Q & A period, a comment that was acknowledged. "All of the 'immersion programs' are full schools with students who deserve the best possible start to their educations. They shouldn't be treated as though they are somehow less than the boundary schools," said Richardson, who lives in Bowie and has a child at DKFI.

Director of Alternative Infrastructure Planning and Development Jason Washington explained that specialty schools are not prioritized for state funding as regular boundary schools are. State money is focused on right-sizing community schools, he said.

There is also no money allocated to renovate Kenmoor. "We're not going to renovate Kenmoor," stated Matlock, though he said there may be future upgrades to make the building "comfortable and effective." Asked why Kenmoor Middle School was moved out of the building but it was suitable for DKFI to move into, Coleman replied that the original Ken-

moor Middle School is in good condition. ... The new building was constructed to accommodate increased enrollment, not poor building conditions. However, a PGCPS employee at Kenmoor told the News Review that in addition to severe overcrowding, the school also experienced problems with mold and asbestos. During the meeting the presenters did not respond to a question posed about those issues or any remediation that's taken place. They did mention the replacement of ceiling tiles due to asbestos.

Call for Empathy

Board of Education Member for District 2 Jonathan Briggs asked for the administration to "look beyond the logistics" and approach the situation with empathy for the children. Washington acknowledged the community as a school saying, "Dora Kennedy is a school. It is not a program. It is not an afterthought."

Superintendent Millard House also attempted to empathize, saying "change is very difficult,"

See HOT MIC, page 13

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4.9% apr*

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301-474-5900 www.greenbeltfcu.com

*apr=annual percentage rate. Rate subject to change without notice. Rate based on credit. Approval required.

HISTORY continued from page 1

bibliography identifying the primary and secondary sources used. Projects are evaluated on historical quality (80 percent) and clarity of presentation (20 percent).

ERHS Contest

Ninety-three projects were submitted to the ERHS History Day contest: 13 papers, one performance, 15 individual and two group documentaries, 33 individual and two group exhibits, and 21 individual and six group websites.

Fifteen volunteer judges from a variety of backgrounds evaluated the projects, about half of whom were participating for the first time. Judges worked in pairs, sometimes with an ERHS teacher stepping in as a judge, and used an evaluation rubric to rate each project's level of achievement (exemplary, proficient, developing, novice, not evident) in several project elements including the historical argument, context, accuracy and significance and whether multiple perspectives were considered. Judges also had to review the process paper and the sources used, assess whether all format requirements had been met, provide written feedback and talk with the student(s) who were on hand to answer questions. Each judge evaluated nine or so total projects, in at least three formats. After evaluating the assigned projects in a format, the pair of judges decided which projects, of the ones they'd viewed, were first and second place in that format. It was challenging, particularly for first-time judges, to do all the evaluation steps for a project quickly and fairly, knowing that all the judging had to be completed within two hours.

Midway through the judging, however, the tight schedule was upset when it was announced over the public address system that the school was going into

lockdown (it was not stated if the threat was within the school; it was later learned that there was police activity in the vicinity). Doors to the library and its side rooms, where the event was taking place, were immediately locked, window shades were lowered and lights were turned off. It was 30 or so minutes before the all-clear was given and the judging resumed, enough of a disruption that teachers Patch-Williams and Barrera, who still had to review all the judges' evaluations and rankings, decided that the contest winners would not be named that day.

Contest Winners

Aashi Moola was named the Grand Champion Winner for her paper Mosquitos, Medicine and Major Milestones: William Gorgas's Legacy on the Panama Canal. She and other top finishers advance to the Prince George's County History Day Contest, which will be held on March 9 at Benjamin Tasker Middle School in Bowie. The Maryland History Day competition will be held on May 4 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and the national competition will take place on June 9 to 13 at the University of Maryland, College Park.

For all participating students, the steps involved in choosing and researching a topic and developing a History Day project are experiences that should serve them well through their school years and perhaps help them choose a career path to follow. Greenbelt Middle School students will participate in a History Day contest (junior division) on Thursday, February 15.

Deanna Dawson was a first-time judge for the ERHS History Day contest.

See HISTORY, page 13

Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt Est. 1976 Democratic Club



BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM ON THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT and MLK

Celebrate Black History Month on Friday, February 23rd, at 7 pm at the Greenbriar Community Building.

The Director of the M-NCPPC, Dennis Dotson, will be the speaker for the Black History Program, discussing The Voting Rights Act and the Timeless Impact of MLK. Feel free to discuss his lecture, socialize and enjoy the refreshments after the presentation.

Become a member or renew your membership at our website: rooseveltclub.com

Any Questions? jetguerrero@gmail.com

School News

HOT MIC continued from page 12

and sharing that his recent move across country with his family for his new job as superintendent had been tough.

A Permanent Home

PGCPS leaders reiterated that Kenmoor would be DKFI's permanent home. Once they moved in it would no longer be a swing space. Some parents were skeptical. The current Greenbelt building is not a designated swing space but will be used as such due to a boundary school's need for the space. Could that happen again at Kenmoor if a local school needed the space there? The question was not acknowledged by the presenters.

Transportation and Location

DKFI is a specialty school serving northern Prince George's County. The dividing line for students to go to DKFI or Maya Angelou (the French immersion school for the south) is Central Avenue. School Boundaries Manager Rhianna McCarter told attendees that the Landover site was "located well within the current service area." McCarter said they'd expected to find a larger cluster of students around Greenbelt and though there were some, students were well distributed throughout the north of the county. "I understand parents make decisions based on location, which is why we're trying to give a lot of notice," said McCarter, though PGCPS was not the one to share the plan with the community.

Asked how students coming from Laurel and others needing transportation would be accommodated, Washington said PGCPS would look to secure more bus drivers, which would enable them to better plan routes.

However, the hiring and retention of bus drivers has continued to be difficult for the school district amidst a nationwide driver shortage. Lyssa Hargrove has a fourth and a seventh grader at DKFI. She lives in Laurel and says though she can drive to the school in Greenbelt in 15 to 20 minutes, depending on traffic, her children have much longer commutes taking the bus. "For their bus route, school lets out at 3:45 p.m. and they are home at 5:30 p.m. I cannot imagine what moving further south would do to that commute," Hargrove told the News Review. John McElhenny of Greenbelt has three children at DKFI. They were registered to take the bus but are now frequently car riders due to the unreliability of bus service, he told the News Review. "What's the plan to actually fix the bus driver shortage and why haven't they fixed it?" he said to the News Review, after the meeting.

Broken Trust

During the meeting Washington stated they had "examined every option," and there were no other suitable spaces for DKFI. However, the later comments between leaders who thought the meeting had ended suggest the nearby Robert Goddard Montessori building, which would involve very little geographic relocation, might be an option. As another specialty K-8 school drawing from the north of the county, as DKFI does, it also



On the right, the old Kenmoor building is proposed as DKFI's new permanent home in Greater Landover. The white building to its left is Kenmoor Middle School's new building, which opened in 2023.

might offer the possibility of shared buses.

Tracy O'Heir of Berwyn Heights is the parent of a first grader at DKFI. She wasn't against moving until now. "Since PGCPS has been caught admitting they are misleading the school community about this decision, I am against the move at this moment because I don't believe we have an honest broker who wants the best for our children,"

she said. "I do believe we need a new building and don't mind a move but want it to be built on a trusting relationship and having real information about the location. Based on the hot mic conversation that was caught [Monday] night, I believe there are more options than we were led to believe."

The author has two children currently attending DKFI.



Love Birds created at the Friends and Family Workshop with Rachel Cross at the Community Center



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HISTORY continued from page 12

2024 History Day Winners, Eleanor Roosevelt High School

Paper

First Place and Grand Champion Winner: Aashi Moola

Second Place: Hayser Rodriguez, How Makeup Became a Turning Point in History in Women's Fight for Social Justice

Honorable Mentions: Arely Martinez, Collapsing of the Wall of Exclusion; Cheyenne Godfrey, World War II and Civil Rights

Individual Performance

First Place: Aiyanna Montgomery, You've Done Enough: How Britain Tried to Destroy India

Individual Documentary

First Place: Armelle Pokam, How the Rap Group N.W.A.'s Music Became Symbols of Rebellion to Generations and More to Come

Second Place: Christina Atta-Safoh, The Turning Point in European Colonialism of Africa: Ghana's Fight for African Liberation

Honorable Mentions: Kaleese Jallow, The History of Black Wall Street 1921: Growth, Unity, and New Beginnings; Emerika Amanze, The First of 17 billion: How the Cell Phone Was a Turning Point In History

Group Documentary

First Place: Greidy Garcia and Zoe Johnson, Voting in Vogue: Fighting with Fashion

Second Place: Immanuel Mateo and Aaron Khoo, Arcades: Driving the Gaming Industry

Individual Exhibit

First Place: Joshua Herrera Guzman, The Birthing of the First Socialist State

Second Place: Nolan Ossi, Nuclear Power

Honorable Mentions: Leo Foreman, The Haitian Revolution: How the Haitian Revolution Turned History Around; Peyton Castiel Medenilla, The Comfort Women

Group Exhibit

First Place: Riley Rios and Luis Arias, Red Summer of 1919: The Resilience of Black Communities

Second Place: Fafa Kwakou, Boluwatife Lamidi and Oluwatuminu Kunle-Rabiu, The Whistle of Death? The Fuel to the Fire

Individual Website

First Place: Kelis Carter, Fred Hampton: The Black Messiah

TIE Second Place: Arfan Rashid, Ammonia: How It Changed the World

TIE Second Place: Arna Gumgol, An Embryonic Extraordinaire: 1997 Cloning of Dolly the Sheep

Group Website

First Place: Elishama Samba, Martha Tellez and Ayotomiwa Akanbi, The Contribution of Chinese Laborers to the Transcontinental Railroad: Paving the way for America's Transportation Revolution

Second Place: Faith Adewole, Saxon Lancaster and Winter Swann, Prohibition: The Rise of the FBI

Honorable Mentions: Judah Ogunsola and Joaquin Tillard, Napalm and the Night of Black Snow; Paul Chang and Praise Emah, Origins of NHD

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NOTICES

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DEAR MJ – You bring delight to my day! Whether through art and music you shine, or when it's cuddle time, you're my Valentine. Love Mama

NO LOVE NOTES you see, well it's a mystery, but not to you, A., because even though I'm perpetually 2 days late, my love is sincere. C.

YOU'RE TALLER KH but not too tall for Valentine's hugs. Sending some sweetness your way on Valentines Day. Love Mama

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BOXED: \$10.60/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15.90). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

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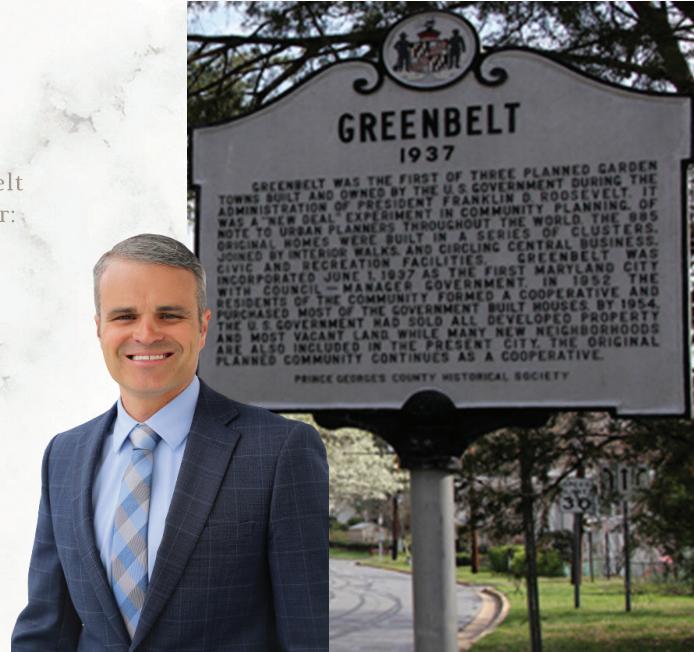


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Letters continued from page 2

Old Greenbelt High School's History

The February 1 issue of the News Review reported tentative plans to demolish and replace the Dora Kennedy French Immersion School building. As we make changes through the years, we should be aware of the history that is slowly being chipped away.

This building was the original Greenbelt High School, built in 1937 by federal government contract. It incorporates the same architectural style, "streamline moderne," of Old Greenbelt – flat roofs, metal casement windows, glass block and horizontal "speed lines" in the brickwork.

A path was built so that students could walk to the school, described in the June 11, 1938, issue of the Greenbelt Cooperator: "A gravel walk, recently completed and running through beautiful woodland, connects A Block in Greenbelt with the high school. Since no roads traverse this path, an underpass [removes] that hazard.... It is difficult to imagine a more beautiful or safer path than that which the Greenbelt children will trod, joyously we are sure, as they ply their way next September to the new school."

The path was later obliterated by the construction of Kenilworth Avenue and the Beltway, but the underpass – the fifth and least-known of our iconic pedestrian underpasses – still exists near the school under Edmonston Road, disused and blocked off – a relic of Old Greenbelt. I thank Stephen Oetken, Friends of the Greenbelt Museum board member and architecture consultant, for pointing out the disused underpass during one of his museum walking tours.

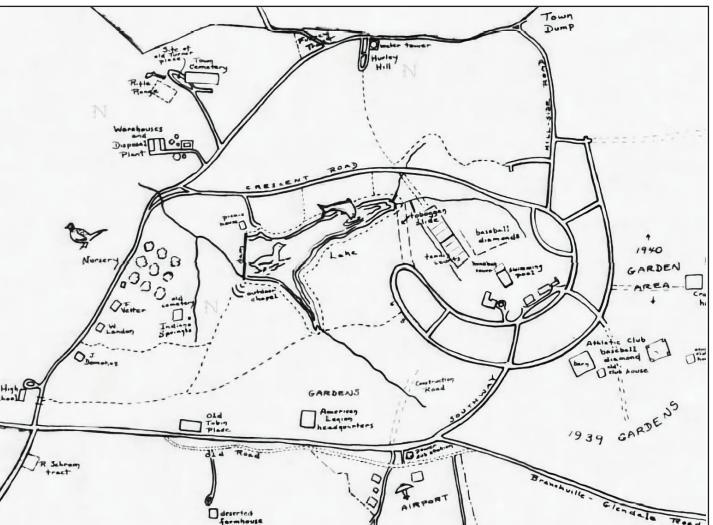
Peter Schultz

Golden Age Club Upcoming Meetings

The Greenbelt Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in the Community Center. However, if public schools are closed (or open late) due to weather issues, the meeting is canceled for the day. The club is now collecting dues for 2024, \$15 for the year. For paid members, a part of the dues goes toward a discount for the annual luncheon in April. Paying dues by check is preferred; make the check payable to Greenbelt Golden Age Club.

February 21: Birthday celebrations. Bring lunch and a dessert or finger food to share.

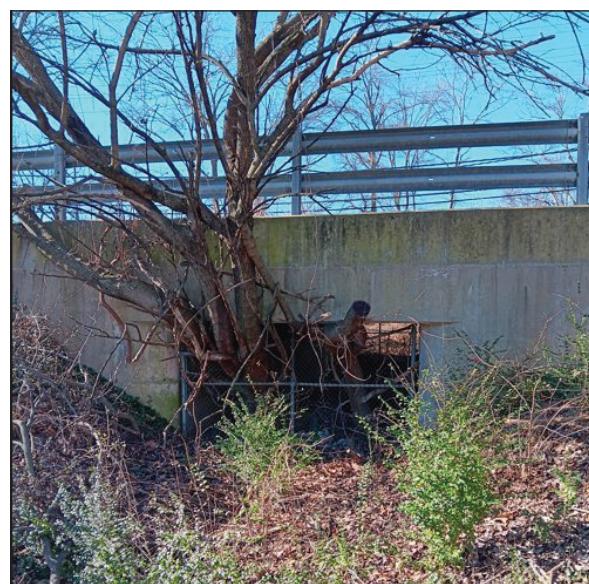
February 28: Bingo



Map showing the path to Greenbelt High School, from the May 9, 1940, issue of the Greenbelt Cooperator



Photograph of the original school from the website www.1959bhmustangs.com/vintagephotos_pgcounty.htm



The disused underpass still exists.

Final Thoughts on Ric Gordon

I thank the Gordon Family for enabling the "Emerald City" community to memorialize and celebrate the life of Ric Gordon, one last time. I thank the New Deal Café for allowing us to gather there. The Café was Ric's second home. So many voices spoke up to praise him and to thank him for being an insightful and caring human being. Hearing those messages of love and support was a soothing and embracing balm for the Gordon family and for those of us present.

Ric was a remarkable man! We had many kitchen table discussions about the challenges our city faced and possible solutions to address them. He indeed loved Greenbelt.

What was also surprising, to me, was that Ric was a published poet. His book is entitled From the Heart: Collections of Ric Gordon.

In so many ways Ric was fortunate even though his life was cut short. He became an elected politician and achieved his childhood dream and goal. But he accomplished so much more. He brought people together! Ric Gordon was Greenbelt's true Renaissance Man!

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Love Notes

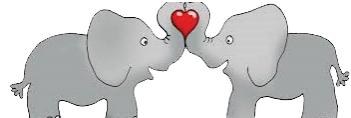


Ayla my wise, light of my life
Beautiful soul that I truly adore,
I loved you ere, I do love you today
And I'll love you forever more.
- Michael

A Haiku on Marriage
(inspired by my dear husband)
Different people,
Roughest edges smoothed to fit,
Emerge as best selves.
By Neshama

Sweet Blue,
You bring oxygen into my world,
And keep me heading due North,
Creating me anew at the cellular
level every day,
As we forge our path together into
the forest of life.
Love you always!

On Valentines day
If the weather is stormy
Stay close to me,
I'll keep you warmy



Happy Valentine's Day
to the Pandemic
Sisters and Dave!
You keep a song in our
hearts and a smile on
our faces!

Dearest Divine, I am yours
and you are mine.
Let's get drunk on a bottle
of wine.
My forever Valentine

be mine!

Rosie Q, I love you.
Jet & Josie love you BEST, but I sure do try.
Buttons thinks you're ok.
Love, Dan E. Pants



Always and Forever, my dear Valentine, Bill.
Your memory lives on and always will
Love,
Shobha



To all my Greenbelt friends,
I am so grateful for all of you!
Happy Valentine's Day
from Buddy and Shobha!



Sending big Valentine's love to the
grandest of grands,
Ezra, Markos, and Yohanna.
Love, Grandma and Grandbob



Stacey,
You're so sweet and filled with emotion,
This is proof of my devotion!
I love you so much - you have my heart
It's been yours from the start!
I'm yours for eternity
It'll always be you and me!
We will never be apart
Because you are my loving sweetheart!
Love
Tom

Continued
from page 9



A Haiku
My heart was stolen
By a kind and loving man
Whom I cannot keep
DMP



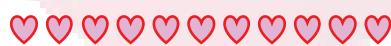
MA,
when rock meets rock
and each sees starstuff
a world writ sunless
breathes life anew
AM.

Ejmm - You are the most amazing
woman I know - if only you knew it.
You drive me crazy. Looking forward to
another 23 plus!
Love Jdblockhead

WHEN OLD H.R. IT GETS YOU DOWN
COUNT ON ME TO BE YOUR CLOWN
THE CATS AND I ARE HERE FOR YOU
I LOVE YOU BABE, I ALWAYS DO.



Happy Valentine's Tae, my little lover! You are my
sunshine and I hope your day is as bright and
joyful as you make mine every day. Sending you
hugs, kisses, and all the love in the world. You
are my favorite Valentine, today and always!
Love and snuggles, Mom & Dad



Princess! We've enjoyed our common interests.
The vision from long ago, must continue,
despite detractors. To sunsets! Kid



Dear Nachshon
This is a little ditty
To say it's such a pity
That there are no words to describe
How you make me feel inside.
Hugs
Your wife.



Pete my Valentine,
"Hold me, thrill me,
kiss me."



Roses are allergenic,
(Violent achoo.)
We're made as we are,
A little askew.
Your lens amasthenic
Draws me to you:
נַפְשָׁתִי; ma Du.



To the Outdoor Pool
And its valiant Crew,
Summer in Greenbelt
Would be zip without YOU!
-- Thank you and Happy Valentine's Day
from the last ones out at 8:03 pm on
Labor Day



FEBRUARY
14TH

Jojo!!!
I'm sure this is all very
embarrassing.
But I love you and I'm
proud of you.



Every day is happier
Every night is more peaceful
Every place is warmer and more
comfortable
Because you are here with me.
I am yours forever!
Love Matt



A meeta' apart or whole hemispheres
I love you so much,
more than gems,
more than beers,
more than large deli platters of bagels and
shmears

This poem won't be published 'cause I'm
in arrears
Unless our dear neighbor (yes, her) interferes
I'll leave it porchside along Sawzall and shears,
hope for the best and
Like Canuk buccaneers
I'll sing loudly, my love so it
Reaches your ears!
With all my love, Adena



Valentine hugs and
kisses
from Mary Moien
to all of her Greenbelt
friends who have been
so kind and thoughtful
this year.

